

TUSSILAGO FARFARA L.
(SENECIONEAE-ASTERACEAE)
IN VIRGINIA

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Tussilago farfara, the Coltsfoot, a perennial rhizomatous herbaceous native of the Old World with a single yellow head terminating a scaly bracted scape in early spring, and developing large cordate leaves later, was seen in a newly developed City Park in Richmond, Virginia, in April, 1971. A survey of the manuals for this area (Fernald, 1950; Gleason & Cronquist, 1963; Harvill, 1970) showed *T. farfara* absent from Virginia. However, a survey of other literature and herbaria proved that the Richmond specimen was not a new state record.

This paper is based upon collections at herbaria of the following institutions: Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Blacksburg, Lynchburg College, Lynchburg, College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, and the United States National Museum, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C. I wish to acknowledge aid of the directors and (or) curators at these herbaria.

The first known collections of *Tussilago* in Virginia include *Freer* 2627 (Lynchburg, US), from route 39 near McClung, Bath County, *Freer* 2628 (Lynchburg, US) collected from the west side of Lantz Mountain, Highland County, *Freer* 2686A (VPISU) from Rockbridge County and *Gwynn* s.n. (VPISU, US) from Warren County; all specimens were collected in 1962. See Fig. 1. The first known published report of *Tussilago* in Virginia is that of Freer (1968) from Rockbridge County.

A general migration of *Tussilago farfara* in the United States from north to south is noted in Fernald (1.c.) and Gleason & Cronquist (1.c.). Fernald (1.c.) lists the species ranging from Newfoundland to its southern limits in New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Ohio though Reed (1951) records *Tussilago* in Baltimore County, Maryland, as early

as 1903 and Strausbaugh and Core (1964) report this species in West Virginia in 1933. Gleason and Cronquist (1.c.), publishing 13 years later than Fernald, indicate a southern range extension to Maryland and West Virginia.

It is apparent that the southern migration of *Tussilago* is continuing at present. This species entered West Virginia in 1933 in Monongahela County which borders on southwestern Pennsylvania and by 1964 was abundant in Kanawha County in southern West Virginia and probably in every county of the state (Strausbaugh and Core, 1.c.). Migration continued and *Tussilago* seems to have entered Virginia from the west in the early 1960's (Fig. 1).

The migration pattern within Virginia perpetuates the trend southward and eastward (Fig. 1). It is noted that the earlier collections were made in the mountains and that the majority of the recent ones have come from the Piedmont and Coastal Plain. The plant in Richmond was seen in sandy, disturbed soil immediately adjacent to the James River. The river, the headwaters of which rise in western Virginia, may well have transported the diseminule from which the specimen grew. Thus, the range of *Tussilago farfara* in the United States should be extended to include Virginia and this interesting species should become part of the treatment of the Flora of Virginia now in preparation.

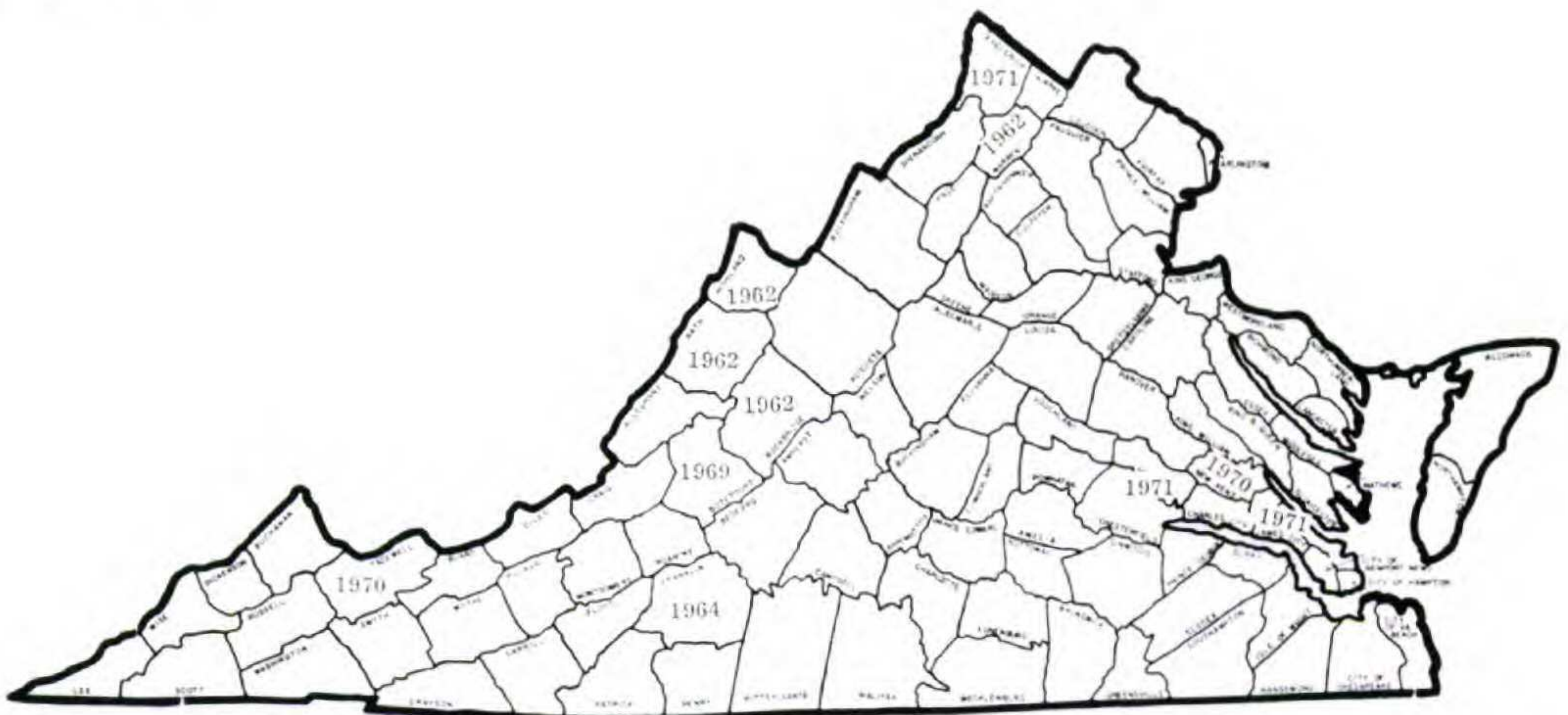


Figure 1. Distribution of *Tussilago farfara* in Virginia. Dates indicate the earliest known collection from each county.

LITERATURE CITED

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